COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1116

Wednesday, *the* $\frac{\textit{20th November 1940}}{\textit{5th Vrischigam 1116}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K.C.I.E.), in the Chair.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, Mr. K. Ashtamurthi Nambudiripad and Mrs. C. R. Iyyunni were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COIR INDUSTRY IN MUKUNDAPURAM COASTAL AREAS—UNEMPLOYMENT IN

51. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):*

(*a*) will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government have understood that the villages of Vallivattom, Padiyur and Edathirinji in Mukundapuram Taluk are coastal areas which have suffered to a great extent on account of the sudden and unexpected unemployment in coir industry;

(*b*) will the Government be pleased to enquire what the main occupation of the people of these villages is;

(*c*) will the Government be pleased to inform this House whether they have done anything by way of famine relief in these poor villages;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what they have done;

(*e*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state why were these poor, helpless villages neglected;

(*f*) will the Government do something in the matter immediately?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) These villages are mostly coastal.

(*b*) Coir and screw-pine mat-making are two important industries carried on in these villages.

(*c*) It cannot be stated that any item of relief has been started in these villages in particular. Karupadanna is adjacent to Vallivattom where there is a society which has been helped to organise both coir and screw-pine mats which latter also is an important industry in these areas. The coir depot at Mattancheri is intended as a general help to coir industry. The Cochin Cottage Industries Co-operative Marketing Society has been in a position to command a good market for screw-pine mats and mats from these villages also are finding their way to the society.

(*d*) and (*e*) In view of the answer to (*c*) no answer is necessary.

(*f*) If the people of the locality organise to help the poor workers, Government will consider the question of directly helping these villages as they are doing elsewhere.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know whether the Karupadanna Co-operative Society has rendered any sort of help to Vallivattom?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* In starting a society, Government can only render help. Government are prepared to render help both materially and departmentally; but it must be started by somebody.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know whether the Government will do some sort of relief work after enquiring into the matter as was done in other places? Government have admitted that these places also are affected. So some relief works must be undertaken.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* If any more funds are forthcoming, we will consider the inclusion of these areas also.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* Have the Government received any application from Vallivattom for the organisation of a Co-operative Society?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Not to my knowledge.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* Was there no representation to Government that the Karupadanna society does not help the Vallivattom Village?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I want notice. All such applications received are considered in a most favourable manner and help is generally given to all such applicants.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* My information is that there was a representation and that it was rejected only on the ground that there was objection from the Karupadanna society.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Most probably this will be too close to it. To start another society might have been objectionable. It is better that these societies join together instead of having a multiplicity of societies without any financial backing.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Was there not previously a Co-operative Society in Vallivattom?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not know.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know the distance between Karupadanna and Vallivattom?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I cannot say.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas - Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government have considered the possibilities of developing the screw-pine mat making industry in Cochin State?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It can be developed into a very big industry.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Does the Central Marketing Society at Trichur deal in these screw-pine mats?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. For the information of the House, I may say that they entered into a contract for the supply of Rs. 5,000 worth of mats, but the middlemen went and persuaded these firms by reducing the price by one or two pies and the society was unable to fulfil the contract. When you enter into a contract you have to fulfil the contract. Fortunately, the firm overlooked the matter and they did not take legal action. The difficulty is that our people do not understand these things.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Have the Government considered whether we can find markets for these mats ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes; various parts like Coimbatore and Bombay and even some of the mills want mats to wrap their cloth.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In view of the importance of the industry will the Government make a full enquiry into the matter to see whether we can find markets for these mats ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The difficulty is that people themselves do not allow us to help them. That is one of the great difficulties.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Has it not been brought to the notice of the Government that there is a large demand ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I shall again make an exhaustive enquiry, and if the hon'ble members also will persuade the people to enter into this thing, it will be the proper way. The difficulty is that they do not understand this. Immediately our back is turned they sell to somebody else.

COIR INDUSTRY, MATTANCHERI AND NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES—WORKING OF COIR DEPOT

52. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the condition of the coir yarn cottage industry in the villages in Mattancheri Constituency, *viz.*, Chellanam, Kumbalangi, Palluruthy, Rameswaram and Mattancheri ;

(*b*) will the Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the working of the coir depot opened in Mattancheri with particular reference to the amount and volume of business transacted, the supply obtained from villages, the elimination of middle-men and the general condition of the trade?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Owing to the European war the coir yarn industry was affected very much and it was brought to a stand-still for a few months. It is now slowly reviving and the condition is much better than it was.

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